



Karen Herr
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Auditor

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July 5, 2013

Louise M. Okonek
P.O. Box 16
Grapeview, WA 98546

Re: Voter Registration Challenge

Ms. Okonek,

The Mason County Auditor's Office received your written challenge as to Mr. Barth's voter registration on May 30, 2013. Specifically, your challenge pertained to Mr. Barth's residence. Once the challenge was received, the Auditor's Office promptly published it on the Mason County Website. On June 7, 2013, notice was sent to Mr. Barth regarding the challenge along with a copy of your allegations, as directed by state law. A hearing was scheduled for June 25, 2013 at 10:00 a.m., to address the aforementioned challenge.

The hearing was carried out on June 25, 2013. The hearing was conducted by myself, Tim Whitehead, Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Mason County, and Fina Ormond, Chief Deputy Auditor for Mason County. As you are aware, yourself and Mr. Barth were present at the hearing. Personal testimony and various documents were used throughout the hearing. Each party had an opportunity to provide evidence regarding the challenge. Each party was also afforded the opportunity to cross examine witnesses.

Registration of a person as a voter is presumptive evidence of his or her right to vote.¹ As the challenger, you have the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the challenged voter's registration is improper.² Based on the evidence produced at the hearing, I find that you have failed to meet your burden. In my opinion, the evidence failed to demonstrate that Mr. Barth is not living at 3181 E. Grapeview Loop Rd. by a clear and convincing standard. Therefore, I must dismiss your challenge.³

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Herr
Mason County Auditor

Cc: Michael Barth

¹ RCW 29A.08.810(1)

² RCW 29A.08.840(4)

³ RCW 29A.08.810(6)